

TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
November 9, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** 6:30 p.m.

**INVOCATION:** Reverend Cheryl Clemes – Impact Christian Church

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL:** All members were present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND REMONSTRATIONS:**

President Hardaway read a letter from Joe Shuddick, Ross Township Trustee. The Township will sponsor their Fourth Annual Holiday Party for children (infant to 4th grade) for residents of Ross Township. The Holiday Party will take place at Hidden Lake Park on Saturday, December 3, 2016 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The letter requested a donation to support this event. Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve a donation of \$200 for the event. The motion was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of the Accounts Payable Register Voucher dated November 9, 2016. Approval of Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 25, 2016. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve and was seconded by Ms. LaMarca. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:**

Mr. Pettit called a Budget & Finance meeting for Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

As a result of having warmer weather this season, Mr. Spann commented on possibly scheduling a late pick up for the leaves. He intends to speak with Mr. Spires for this request.

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mrs. Uzelac had no report.

**PARKS & RECREATION:**

Ms. LaMarca had no report.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS:**

Mrs. Barron had no report.

**ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS:**

Ms. LaMarca said the Christmas Holiday Parade will be Friday, December 2, 2016 at 6 p.m. She invited everyone on the Town Council to come and participate in the festivities.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Pettit had no report.

**UTILITY LIAISON:**

Mrs. Barron referred to Matt Lake for a report. Mr. Lake announced that the Merrillville Stormwater Resource Center will host the Northwest Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group meeting, on November 17, 2016. Mr. Lake went on to provide further Stormwater updates.

**ABANDONED PROPERTIES:**

President Hardaway had no report.

**GENERAL ORDERS:**

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-33:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Casino Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mrs. Barron. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**FIRST READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-34:** An Ordinance of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, appropriating additional monies within the Recycling Grant Fund for the year 2016 not included in the current budget. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**SECOND READING ORDINANCES:**

**Ord. 16-31:** An Ordinance of the Town Council of the Town of Merrillville, Indiana, to amend the Vacant and Abandoned Building Registration and Maintenance Ordinance. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve the ordinance and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no public comment or discussion. The motion carried by a 7-0 roll call vote.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**Res. 16-32:** A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana, transferring monies of the 2016 budget within the General Fund. Mrs. Uzelac made a motion to approve the resolution and was seconded by Mr. Spann. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

**BZA ACTIONS:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Mr. Pettit mentioned that the old Marianne's Deli structure, located at approximately 7200 Broadway, has been demolished. A discussion took place regarding the status of the Old Mill property as well as lots located on Broadway that are currently up for tax sale. Mr. Bushemi provided the latest updates for the properties.

Mr. Pettit said Mississippi Phase 4A project has been completed. Mr. Pettit acknowledged Congressman Pete Visclosky who secured federal funding that paid for 80 percent of the work. Mr. Pettit thanked the council for its support to use Mississippi Street tax increment financing district dollars to pay for Merrillville's portion of the project. He also applauded Town Manager Bruce Spires and Town Attorney John Bushemi for their efforts to ensure the infrastructure work would happen.

Mr. Minchuk attended a property owner's meeting for Brookstone Condominiums to discuss concerns they have related to a potential self-storage business to be built on the property. Mr. Minchuk provided an overview of the discussion and recommended that this petition request to remain tabled until all the details have been addressed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Hardaway said that the Salvation Army Gary-Merrillville is scrambling to find sponsors for its annual angel tree program after one of the larger past contributors indicated they will not be able to take on any angels this year. The angel tree program sets out to provide gifts this holiday season for local children from low-income families. President Hardaway, a co-chairman of the Gary-Merrillville advisory council, said every child deserves a gift for Christmas, and was devastated when he learned of the sponsorship issue. President Hardaway encouraged the Town Council, residents and businesses to become angel sponsors in an effort to help assist families in need in Gary, Merrillville, Crown Point, New Chicago, Lake Station and Hobart. Mr. Pettit made a motion to approve a donation of \$1000 and was seconded by Mr. Minchuk. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

President Hardaway recommended providing a donation to Merrillville Choir and Boy Scout Troop for their participation in the Veterans Day Ceremony.

Merrillville Choir will be singing patriotic songs for Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2016.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve a donation of \$200 and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Boy Scout Troop will present the colors at the Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 11, 2016.

Mrs. Barron made a motion to approve a donation of \$100 and was seconded by Mr. Pettit. There was no discussion. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Pettit mentioned the upcoming appointments for the Plan Commission as well as the Police Commission due for the year 2017. He made a suggestion to start accepting letters now through December for these appointments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

All public comment is recorded on an audio file and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Town Hall Offices Closed (except for Emergency Services) November 11, 2016 in observance of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day Ceremony will be on November 11, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. (Held in the Town Council meeting room)

Budget & Finance meeting, November 15, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Plan Commission meeting, November 15, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Workshop, November 16, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, Nov. 16, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

Environmental Resource Committee meeting, November 17, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Town Council meeting, November 22, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mrs. Barron made a motion to adjourn was seconded by Mr. Pettit.